

Monday January 14, 2013

## A start

### ***Treatment could avert violence by mentally- ill young people***

One of the most-talked-about topics amid all the media coverage of the Newtown school shootings was a blog item written by a mother who sympathized with what shooter Adam Lanza's mother may have had to deal with: Liza Long's "I Am Adam Lanza's Mother" gave a shocking, heartbreaking account of trying to deal with her troubled and sometimes-violent 13-year-old son in a world that offers little aid to mentally ill young people.

Ohio is taking a small step in the right direction by dedicating \$5 million to a targeted mental-health-intervention program for children and young adults. While it's thankfully rare for a troubled young person to kill random strangers, there are many Ohio families suffering alone with children who are a potential danger to themselves or others.

"There are families that get themselves in a position where they have a young child or maybe even an adult child that has very serious problems," said Gov. John Kasich in announcing the aid money last week. "We can't do everything, and this isn't going to solve everything, but it's at least, I think, a good start."

The funding is coming from an \$18 million bonus the state was given for meeting enrollment goals for the federal Children's Health Insurance Program, so it is new money not coming out of any existing state revenue stream.

It's true that the mentally ill as an entire group aren't overly violent or dangerous. But this money is directed specifically at young people whose illness leads them to violent outbursts, which can escalate over time in combination with other factors to serious, violent acts. As pointed out in *The Dispatch* last month by Ohio State University psychiatry chief Dr. John V. Campo, the seriously mentally ill are at a greater risk of behaving violently and are more likely to have histories that include substance abuse, delinquency and domestic violence.

Read full article here: <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2013/01/14/a-start.html>

###